

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13148 INTERAGENCY WORKGROUP
REQUEST FOR FEDERAL AGENCY, FIELD-LEVEL COMMENT:
Executive Order 13148, Section 503

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this document is to request comment from Federal agency field-level personnel regarding a draft list of chemicals based on criteria established in Executive Order 13148, Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management.

BACKGROUND:

Executive Order (EO) 13148, section 503, requires that a Federal interagency Workgroup develop a list of chemicals used by the Federal Government that may result in significant harm to human health or the environment and that have known, readily available, less harmful substitutes for identified applications and purposes. EO 13148 further requires that Federal agencies (with certain exceptions) reduce their use of those chemicals for the identified applications by fifty percent by December 31, 2006. The requirement applies only to Federal agencies. The reduction requirement applies to each Federal agency; facility-specific efforts are at the discretion of each agency.

EO 13148 states that development of the list shall consider: (1) environmental factors including toxicity, persistence, and bio-accumulation; (2) availability of known, less environmentally harmful substitute *chemicals* that can be used in place of the priority chemical for identified applications and purposes; (3) availability of known, less environmentally harmful *processes* that can be used in place of the priority chemical for identified applications and purposes; (4) relative costs of alternative chemicals or processes; and (5) potential risk and environmental and human exposure based upon applications and uses of the chemicals by Federal agencies and facilities. The technology transfer goal of section 503 of EO 13148 is to leverage pollution prevention leadership already achieved at Federal facilities by ensuring that information on successful efforts is made available across the Federal community. To support this objective, where an agency can demonstrate that it has previously reduced by fifty percent the use of a chemical identified by the workgroup, then the agency may elect to waive the fifty percent reduction goal for that chemical required by EO 13148.

The EO 13148 interagency Workgroup has prepared a draft list of chemicals, applications and associated alternatives that reflect the criteria described above. The draft list was generated from experiences provided by field-level Federal facility personnel and is presented below. **The list is preliminary and chemicals, specified applications and proposed alternatives on the draft list are not necessarily those that will appear on the final section 503 list and may change based upon comment.** This notice is also available on the World Wide Web at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/DOD/Working/EO13148/eo13148.html>, and www.epa.gov/fedsite.

REQUEST FOR COMMENT:

The Workgroup is requesting through this notice that appropriate Federal facility field-level personnel review and comment on the draft list of chemicals, applications and alternatives. The Workgroup will prepare documents and guidance to assist Federal agencies and facilities in meeting the objectives of section 503. Where proposed alternatives are associated with equipment replacement, the guidance will likely target cost effective reduction of environmental risk by phasing out use for specified applications as the equipment using the target chemical reaches its expected service life. Additional technical assistance on effective alternatives will be provided in the guidance.

US Department of Agriculture offices and agencies are to submit their comments to their respective agency environmental pollution control coordinators who will then forward all comments to the Hazardous Materials Management Group (HMMG). HMMG will consolidate USDA comments and send them to the interagency Workgroup through the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Comments will be considered in preparation of the final list which will be announced through the interagency Workgroup and made available on the websites listed above. In addition, fact sheets and other guidance documents and tools will be prepared by the EO 13148 Workgroup to assist facilities in implementation of the section 503 requirements. Implementation of the reduction requirements of this section of EO 13148 will begin in calendar year 2002.

Federal facility personnel are requested to review and comment on the draft list of chemicals, alternatives and uses considering the factors described in section 503. Federal facility personnel are also requested to provide discussion of any guidance or technical information considered necessary to implement reduction requirements of EO 13148. The EO 13148 Workgroup is particularly interested in facility level comment on the following issues:

- environmental or human health issues, including exposure, associated with use of the proposed chemical for the specified application at Federal facilities;
- experience, including success or failure, of the proposed alternatives at Federal facilities (for the specified chemical and application);
- potential logistical problems, such as necessary changes to military specifications, that affect implementation of the alternatives at Federal facilities;
- reasonable thresholds for proposed chemicals below which the Executive Order reduction requirement would not apply at Federal facilities ;
- situations where disposal/removal of proposed chemicals may pose a threat to the environment or human health;
- chemicals, applications and alternatives used by Federal facilities which meet the criteria in EO 13148 but are not listed on the proposed list;

- chemicals with specified applications at Federal facilities which pose environmental or health problems and for which currently there exist no less harmful, cost effective alternative;
- criteria and methods to determine progress towards reduction goals established by EO 13148;
- information (to be included in fact sheets) necessary to implement the reduction requirements of section 503.

Federal facility personnel are requested to comment by June 22, 2001, through electronic mail to **EO13148@epa.gov** on any of these aspects as appropriate and are encouraged to provide any additional comment they believe may be relevant to the section 503 list and implementation of the reduction requirements. Please provide any available basis, such as studies, reviews, examples or facility experiences, for your comments. Thank you for your help in making this effort successful.

DRAFT - EO 13148 Section 503 Chemical List

Use	Chemical	Proposed/Draft Alternatives (<u>NOTE</u> : this draft list does not include all alternatives!)
Temperature and pressure measuring devices (medical and industrial)	Mercury	Aneroid manometers - digital and electronic temperature measuring devices
Switches	Mercury	Electronic thermostats - mechanical switches, ultrasonic and photoelectric sensors
Lab Use	Mercury	Zinc formalin, sample freeze drying
Surface coating/plating processes	Cadmium	Alternative metal coatings, metal deposition, flame coating, limited area plating
Surface coating/plating processes	Chrome (chromium VI)	Alternative metal coatings, metal deposition, flame coating, limited area plating
Surface coating/plating processes	Nickel	Alternative metal coatings, metal deposition, flame coating, limited area plating
Wastewater Disinfection	Chlorine (solid and gaseous)	Ozone treatment, UV light, chlorine dioxide
Biocide in cooling towers	Chlorine(solid and gaseous)	Ozone treatment
Photographic Operations	Silver	Digital photographic processes
Radiography (medical and industrial)	Silver	Digital computer radiography
Tin/Lead Soldering	Lead	Tin copper eutectic, Tin silver eutectic
Herbicide	2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid	Process changes and native landscaping
Fungicide (aquaculture)	Formalin	Hydrogen peroxide
Drycleaning	Perchloroethylene	Process change: "wet" cleaning systems, liquid carbon dioxide
Medical/general Sterilizer	Ethylene Oxide	Gamma, electron beam radiation, vapor phase hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid

Pesticide/insecticide	Methoxychlor	Integrated Pest Management including process changes
Pesticide	Napthalene	Integrated Pest Management including process changes
Pesticide/herbicide	Pendimethalin	Integrated Pest Management including process changes
Pesticide	Pentachlorobenzene	Integrated Pest Management including process changes
Pesticide	Pentachlorophenol	Integrated Pest Management including process changes
Wood Preservative	Pentachlorophenol	Recovered plastic lumbers and timbers, steel, aluminum
Insulating material (dielectric fluids in transformers and ballasts)	PCBs	Early retirement of existing PCB containing equipment